NIC recorded profits of Rs. 75.04 crores in 1987-88, Rs. 67.80 crores in 1986-87 and Rs. 60.51 crores in 1985-86.

Introduction of cellular phones

2844. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cellular phones are being introduced;

(b) if so, when and at which places;

(c) whether they are being imported; and

(d) if so, from which country and what are the details regarding the quantity and value of imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) There is a proposal for installing a Cellular Mobile Radio Telephone System at Bombay on experimental basis with an initial capacity of 1200 lines. However no final decision has so far been taken on this proposal.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal is for import of the above referred experimental system.

(d) No decision has yet been taken. The value of 1200 lines initial capacity will be approx. Rs. 7 crores FOB.

Revision of pricing policy by Department of Telecommunications

2885. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications is considering revision of its pricing policy for the three public sector undertakings viz. ITI, HCL and HTI; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Individual pricing agreements were entered into with these undertakings when they were the sole suppliers of cables and equipment to this Department. Slowly more and more manufacturers have come or are expected to come in the market and are expected to start producing the same equipment. Wherever multiple sources of supply are possible the Deptt. of Telecom. is considering procurement of cables and equipment by open tenders. These undertakings will also be required to participate in such tenders. It is expected that this measure will result in reduced cost to the Department.

Introduction of car telephones in Bombay

2886. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the experience of car telephones in Delhi;

(b) whether car telephones are being introduced in Bombay;

(c) if so, the number of lines being introduced and by when they are likely to become available; and

(d) from which country will these be imported and what will be the quantity and value of imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The car telephones in Delhi are functioning satisfactorily.

(b) Proposal for introduction of latest type viz. Cellular Mobile Radio Telephone System on experimental basis in Bombay is under consideration. No final decision has been taken so far.

(c) The proposal is to provide initially 1200 lines expandable to 5000 lines later. Since no decision has been taken, it is not possible to indicate when they will become available.

(d) This decision has not been taken. The value of 1200 lines initial phase is approx. Rs. 7 crores FOB.

Public telephones in Bombay

2887. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephones in Bombay;

(b) whether it is adequate considering the population and compared to other cities in the world;

(c) what is the plan for providing additional public telephones; and

(d) whether priority would be given for the installation of public telephones rather than private telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) There are 6,455 public telephones in Bombay.

(b) and (c) Although it is not considered adequate, 580 and 598 additional public telephones have been planned for 1988-89 and 1989-90 respectively.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Creation of refining capacity for imported crude

2888. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different views by experts have been expressed regarding creation of refining capacity for imported crude or importing the finished products in view of falling international finished product prices and cost effectiveness of refineries; and

(b) if so, what are the Government's views on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The cost effectiveness of creation of indigenous refining capacity on imported crude vis-a-vis import of products would depend upon various factors such as crude/product price differential, transportation logistics and cost, degree of self sufficiency required etc. A working group constituted by the Government to look into the refining needs of the country will keep all these factors in view in preparing their report.

Action against Bharat Prakashan Limited

2889. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints of non-compliance with the provisions of Company Law in respect of the Bharat Prakashan Limited, publishers of the "Organiser" weekly have come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details of action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No such complaint appears to have been received by the Registrar of Companies, New Delhi and the headquarter of the Department of Company Affairs.

(b) Does not arise.

Combined cycle gas based power station in Gujarat

2890. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government has accorded its approval for the setting up of new combined cycle gas based power station in Ahmedabad;

(b) if so, whether the ONGC has agreed to supply the requisite gas for the unit;